



Website <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca> Email: snac@lbpearson.ca
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/specialneedsadvisorycommittee>

Special Needs Advisory Committee Lester B. Pearson School Board

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting – October 21, 2020 Held at Lester B. Pearson School Board 1925 Brookdale, Dorval

In Attendance: Laurence Assouline, Lauren Broad, Jennifer DiMarco, Dyana Gampel, Christina George, Robert Gilmartin, Evelyne Hornblower, Randal Howarth, Franca Kesic, Susana Lazaro, Lisa Mancini, Danny Olivenstein, Kiley Philp, Kathy Robinson, Nora Salvaggio, Randi Spanier, Stéphanie Stever, Victoria Stuhec, Monique Thirlwell, Michelle Wilson, Sheila Moody, Randall Howarth,

Regrets: Tracy Bieszcz, Alexandra Desbiens-Leighton

No Reply: none

Recording Secretary: Evelyne Hornblower

Observers: 2 members of the public were in attendance

Jennifer DiMarco called the virtual meeting to order at 6:33 pm

1.0 Confirmation of Quorum & Welcome of New Members: Quorum was reached

(quorum is considered 9 or half the voting members as per the internal rules)

SNAC Chair welcomed the new members to to committee:

2.0 Approval of Agenda:

Add 6.15 for WIAIH for this meeting as well as all future meetings

2.1 MOTION to approve agenda by Lisa, seconded by Michelle

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

3.0 Minutes Approvals:

3.1 Corrections to the Minutes of September 23, 2020

No Corrections

3.2 Approval of Minutes of September 23, 2020

MOTION to approve by Dyana, seconded by Cristina.

Rob abstaining.

MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

4.0 Questions from the public

No question at this point.

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 SNAC Parent Member Resignation (Jennifer)

Angela Berryman resigned from her parent position on September 27th as she ran to be a ward commissioner. She was acclaimed in this position. Thank you to Angela for all the work she has done as a parent representative for SNAC as well as her role as parent commissioner - special needs.

5.2 VOTE: SNAC Rules of Internal Management Update and Approval

A maximum of 13 parent reps - we currently have 11 - so no concerns there.

Looked at all the internal rules. As are written at this time.

For place modification as such to be changed:

Internal rules/location

MEETING PLACE

SNAC meets at the School Board Head Office located at 1925 Brookdale Avenue, Dorval or online via a video conferencing platform such as Google Meet, Zoom or Microsoft Teams with the Chair saving the recordings on Google drive.

We do not need to replace the parents that have resigned as we have quorum at this time through 11 parent reps. Term for parents is 2 years. Continuity is to be done. For the vacancies, the parent positions originally have to go back to the general assembly or call a special meeting. Current parent members have to vote on the current membership. Last year it was stated that due to COVID we extended our mandates.

Q1: Why were people wary of having the mandates extended.

R1: I believe it was because they were worried about having members of the public view the committee as exclusive and non inclusive even if the decision was based on the COVID situation.

Approval of the Rules:

MOTION to approve by Susana, seconded by Lauren

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

5.3 Ratify E-Vote for November Parent Information Session

On October 5th, SNAC Chair sent out an e-vote email . The voting closed on October 7 at 10pm

The vote was unanimous in favour of replacing our November meeting with a special parent presentation on Zoom with Dr. Isabelle Hénault on Sexuality Education and Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder offered to us by the student services department. We need to ratify that vote now in person 1 by 1.

Votes were unanimous YES

5.4 November 25 Special Presentation on Sexuality and ASD by Dr. Isabelle Hénault

Stephanie and the SSD have been working on a presentation with Dr. Hénault on ZOOM. It will be able to have up to 500 viewers with the topic focusing on sexual development of teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder. It will be geared for parents and will count as our parent information sessions. SSD was able to bargain as she will be training the staff, then the parents at a different time. She is world renown and she is very knowledgeable and friendly with the topics. This presentation is being generously organized by the Student Services Department Health Promotion Prevention Team.

Q1: Who's responsibility will be in order to transfer the information to parents?

R1: Principals will be sent the information and the links will be shared via different platforms. This will be sent to FB and links.

SNAC will also post on their website, their Facebook Page and email their mailing list and post on Basecamp for the Parents Committee asking parent reps to share with their schools also.

VOTE:

MOTION to approve a FB boost budget of up to 200\$ for this presentation

MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

6.0 Reports/Questions for the following committees

6.1 SNAC meeting Summary Report to Parents' Committee and Council (Jen)

The summary report was sent in the kit and is available on our website under external reports <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/ExternalReports/page.asp>

Posted on the website and sent to SNAC Members when it is ready. Reps on the parents committee also share on basecamp for PC.

6.2 Administration (Stéphanie)

No written report submitted

COVID update, went from RED to larger RED measures. Biggest changes are in High School, where everyone needs to wear the masks at all times. Limitations for cross bubbles were also imposed (already in effect in LBPSB), currently in effect. There are limited exposures to entryways and common areas, this was also already in effect as it was implemented in all Schools in MTL. Secondary 4 and 5 are also 1 day school 1 day virtual. This is officially in effect with a virtual learning component. Official distinction for Face covering and masks, these procedural masks must be changed every 4 hours. Ocular protection is also required in close proximity. Planned outings are stalled until further notice.

MEQ announced that there will be a basic change from 3 terms to 2 terms in the annual year. They will be replaced on 2 terms deadline is January 22nd, and July 10th.

Midterm will still have an opportunity to touch base for the demands of the students this year. The goal of this recommendation is to alleviate the pressure on assessment and pressures of grading and adaptations for the current reality.

For the I.E.P.'s they are following the schedule for the same timing. Jan and July are anticipated dates. 10 communications still stand and they should be recorded.

Government was generous for mental health subsidies 106 000 000\$ for the mental health of youth and school motivations. The money is meant to support partnerships and increase the specialised resources to connect with the schools in order to support our youth and young adults. A large demographic being hit hard for the social interaction is the teen to 30 yr olds. As compared to the rest of MTL, we have very low class bubble closures for the 10-14 days. Most of the contagious source has been found through outside interaction.

Trying to continue the continuing education and PED days, short PD sessions (1 to 1 1/2hrs). Many ESD offerings for virtual world education, tools and tips for the staff. The Centre of Excellence for mental health also has interesting virtual teachings and workshops.

Q1: The I.E.P. release PED day that happened, if not due till January, what are they following now?

R1: They are following the I.E.P.'s now.

Q2: How will they look at the grading division?

R2: 50+50 and final exams. Hopefully through communication will eliminate surprises. All measures are in effect as the measures are in place now.

Q3: Interim report cards, satisfactory, how to validate the meanings.

R3: The comments are anecdotal.

Comments: I.E.P.'s stunned to see the difference for the pace of the work. I.E.P.'s are roadmaps. At any given time any professionals are out of class. If a new teacher were to walk in, the new staff would have no idea what to do.

Online academy update

675 students are now on the online academy, 60 teachers. grade 4 to 11. 7 teachers from new frontiers are also integrated. New Frontiers School Board students are also integrated. 7 resource teachers and professionals are there to support the teams in a virtual world.

Q4: If in virtual academy is I.E.P. still in effect?

R4: It is designed to be in effect.

Q5: Who are the resource teachers

R5: ASD professional, OT and other teachers on preventative leave.

Q6: Classes are exploding, and the question is about substitutes. When none available they are expected to do work on their own, for short term absences there is no short term absences. How does this work?

R6: Not aware at all of the management of the classes. There are 2 Principals for the online academy (HS and ES).

6.3 Council of Commissioners (Danny)

Report in kit

Elections have been postponed. All acclaimed commissioners will keep their seats, all in the ridings (2,3,4) will have elections whenever they will be held. In the meantime the commissioners there will keep their seats. Current commissioner will stay on until the new election.

1 more co-opted position still available.

2000\$ for SNAC was awarded as previous years. Strongly encourage us to plan to spend the money prior to June as any surplus funds (of which there should be none) will be returned to the school board.

Return as little as possible in June. Pace out the spending so there is not a large surplus at the end of the year. In order to maintain the budget we have to show that it is needed for the meeting and spent appropriately.

6.4 Parent Commissioner - Special Needs (Susana)

No report

There are meetings being planned.

6.5 Parent's Committee (Lisa / Dyana)

No report

6.6 Treasurer's report (Lauren)

\$2000 to spend this year.

Facebook advertising for the Isabelle Henault evening - previously voted on up to \$200 to spend in November. Will an ERMS message be sent out to all parents? PC reps to share the info with PC and ask

Expenditures to be planned throughout the year

Propose items and topics that could be discussed in order to spend funds for specific topics.

6.7 Equity and Inclusion Task Force (Lisa)

no written report submitted

Exciting task force and narrowed down to 3 subcommittees, looking at the existing policies for the special needs, they are quite up to date. What was found is that there is a gap between policies and execution of the tasks. Looking at the mentoring and coaching. Updating language and vocabulary to be used. Wanted everyone to know.

6.8 Programs & Services Committee (Kathy / Dyana)

No report

6.9 Pearson Teachers Union PTU (Tracey / Christina)

Teachers are tweaking the I.E.P.'s and sending them out at this point (before mid-November to be sent out to the parents) . PTU is still in negotiations with the government, teachers are working very hard with the additional safety measures. The board supports the professionals at all times. Teacher virtual conference was held virtually through 4 webinars. Inspirational speaker. Haley Wickenhiser was inspirational. Rosemary Sadlier, is an advocate for multiple fronts. There was one conference about mental health, it is completely normal to be stressed in these times. Important to get up and change settings and environment in order to change the mindset. The last one from Ed Tech Team Canada, giving clues for online tips and what to look for. Heard in the last ten days the changes for the report cards and grading systems including the I.E.P.'s. Kids are the priority, and ensure that communication is done with teachers. They will respond in time, do not hesitate to communicate. Mental health to be used for the walks on a regular basis.

6.10 Pearson Association of School Administrators PASA (Laurence and Alexandra)

Not much to report, In terms of the admin, they are going back to teams for principals and region meetings. There are different meetings in the month, it is helpful to get the perspectives from the other administrative issues. Teachers are getting help from peers. One of the challenges are substitutions as there are not enough teachers for the time period. Was difficult before COVID and is now harder. Are getting creative in the manners to be running the school, the biggest reward is to see the happiness between the children.

6.11 Professionals PEP (Victoria / Monique / Randal)

Plexiglass has been installed. Fogging of the shields and goggles. Discussed PPE in the winter. People are very excited to see kids back in school. There is normalcy in the new normal.

6.12 Independent Association of Support Staff (Rob)

There was an AGM on October 16. Speaker was Tina Varugese, a great speaker. 1016 people on zoom from the beginning. Lots of questions on PPE and there are still a lot of things to work out with the children. There is a lot of support from the school board. Real effort is given to ensure as safe as possible of an experience. Support staff is very diverse, hard to find a speaker that reaches all of the people.

6.12 Communication Liaison Report (Jen / Sheila)

Since the September meeting, there have been 271 hits to the main page and 22 hits to the webcast page. Which is less people. Have been receiving a lot of emails, and are trying to respond as quickly as possible.

Emails and phone calls have continued so we can best support parents right away with their concerns.

6.13 Social Media Subcommittee (Susana)

360 new hits. 3 top posts have up to 10 000 people that have heard about SNAC. This is very good media. The most important posts can help parents keep up morale. No negative comments have been received at this time.

6.14 WIAIH (Franca Kesic)

A whole list of virtual learnings that are taking place with Red Zone, programs are offered to adolescents and adults with ASD. First online family social gatherings are being offered. If you are a WIAIH member you will receive this in newsletters. Virtual parent groups are ongoing, and are very well attended, and hopefully will be as popular virtually. New poster will be sent out virtually. SNAC will share once we receive it.

7.0 Correspondence

Coping with Stress Anxiety and Loss while Parenting In Uncertain Times FREE Parent Workshop Tuesday October 27th at 7pm

**Presented by the LBPSB Centre of Excellence for Mental Health and LEARN Quebec
Dr. Zmira King - Psychologist and Janna Gilis - behaviour consultant**

Register: <https://learnquebec.ca/parpan>

Montreal Families Article:

Article on the special parks for children with special needs children.

<https://www.montrealfamilies.ca/12-great-parks-for-kids-with-special-needs/>

8.0 Varia

MOTION to approve a Boosting Budget for SNAC Facebook Page posts up to 600\$

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Lisa, seconded by Susana

MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

Will adjust the SNAC Budget to allow for this extra amount in publicity and remove from the earmarked funds we had for coffee and snacks for in person meetings this year as we are doing online meetings due to COVID.

9.0 Questions from the public:

Q1: The policy for Special needs, section number 6, in case an alternative for education is deemed necessary...there was a part that requested that the policy includes a range of possibilities of arrangement, what is deemed necessary? What does it take for a coded student to get the help from an external partner.

R1: Resource teams within the school the board will have to assess case by case. There are times when the school time and in school resource network. No delivery of services for partners for outside resources. There are certain consultations with in person meetings and outside organisations can be affiliated. Always depends on the case by case system. As an example a private psychologist or speech therapist would not be conducted on school grounds. Using in school resources even if there are external resources. Within the school system there is a wide variety of professionals that will be used as the main resources to be used. The services are there within the school system. More on a consultative need. How does the Mackay centre work? There are other plans of intervention and there is consultation set up to navigate the system.

Q2: Transportation for kids with special needs, is there anything that states the maximum amount of time a student, especially a student with special needs can be on a school bus?

R2: The answer is no, there is no actual time frame for the route definition. With limited resources and seats it is an important aspect to be understood.

Q3: Van bus drivers can not force/ask a 7 year old to wear a mask the whole ride.

R3: Stephanie will validate if this is the case. If the subcontractors have their own safety regulations for this. If looking at a specific busing company.

Q4: What are the stances for the technology for the schools with respect to COVID.

R4: If it is a part of the tools and supports for the learning then can ask about this at this time. If there is a recommendation then you can ask that it be pushed forward.

9.0 Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Rob, seconded by Danny

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23PM

Next Meeting:

Wednesday January 21st 2020 at 6:30pm on Google Meet